

### REMARKS

The specification has been reviewed, and clerical errors of the specification have been amended.

In paragraph 1 on page 2 of the Action, claim 1 was objected to because of the informalities. In paragraph 3 on page 2 of the Action, claims 1-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Harris (6,341,860). In view of the objection and rejection, claim 1 has been amended to clarify the structure thereof. Claims 2 to 4 have been amended to correct clerical errors. Also, new claims 5-6 have been filed.

As recited in claim 1, a printing method of the invention comprises transporting a recording medium and an intermediate transfer sheet to an image forming position on a first transport path; forming an image on the recording medium and the intermediate transfer sheet at the image forming position on the first transport path; transporting the recording medium to an image transfer position on a second transport path disposed separately from the first transport path; and transferring the image formed on the intermediate transfer sheet to the recording medium at the image transfer position on the second transport path. The step of forming the image on the intermediate transfer sheet is prohibited when the step of forming the image on the recording medium is performed.

In particular, in the invention, the recording medium and the intermediate transfer sheet are transferred to the image forming position on the first transport path, so that the image is formed on the recording medium and the intermediate transfer sheet. Then, the recording medium is transferred to the image transfer position on the second transport path, so that the image on the intermediate transfer sheet is transferred to the recording medium. The first transport path and the second transport path are arranged separately. Also, the image forming position and the image transfer position are arranged separately on the first transport path and the second transport path, respectively.

Harris is directed to a duplex document printer mechanism for printing both sides of a recording medium. In Harris, the printing apparatus includes a printer head 108, an intermediate transfer roller 114, feed rollers 100A and 100B, and a pressure roller 106. In printing, the rollers transport a paper (recording medium) 102 through a paper path 104. The printer head 108 forms an image on the intermediate transfer roller 114, and the image is transferred to one side of the paper 102. Also, the printer head 108 forms another image on the other side of the paper 102.

In Harris, the transfer roller 114 moves from the position shown in Fig. 1 to the position facing the pressure roller 106 shown in Fig. 2. In this position, the image on the transfer roller 114 is transferred to the paper 102. Therefore, although the transfer roller 114 moves between two positions, both positions are located on the paper path 104. In the invention, the image forming position and the image transfer position are arranged separately on the first transport path and the second transport path, respectively.


In Harris, the paper 102 passes through the single paper path 104. The printer head 108 prints the image on one side of the paper 102, and the image on the intermediate transfer roller 114 is transferred to the other side of the paper 102. In the invention, when the image is formed on the recording medium and the intermediate transfer sheet, the recording medium and the intermediate transfer sheet are transported to the image forming position on the first transport path. When the image on the intermediate transfer sheet is transferred to the recording medium, the recording medium is transported to the image transfer position on the second transport path.

Therefore, the features of the invention are not disclosed or suggested in Harris.

Reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

HAUPTMAN KANESAKA BERNER  
PATENT ABENTS, LLP

by   
Manabu Kanesaka  
Reg. No. 31,467  
Agent for Applicants

1700 Diagonal Road, Suite 310  
Alexandria, VA 22314  
(703) 519-9785